

### REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 29, 2006, the Examiner rejected 1-23 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Mullendore (US Patent publication 2003/0185154). Claims 1-23 remain at issue.

#### The Art Rejection

The Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's comments in the section labeled "C" in the Office Action dated September 29, 2006. With all due respect, the Examiner's reasons for maintaining the rejection based on the Mullendore reference are without merit.

The Applicants readily acknowledge that the prior art, including the Mullendore reference, teaches that SCSI Command, Data, Response and Transfer Ready frames all rely on OX\_ID and RX\_ID fields for storing originating Host and target device information.

The issue at hand, however, is whether the cited Mullendore reference teaches a Switch which modifies either the OX\_ID or RX\_ID header of a trapped write command frame, as recited in the claims of the present invention. A careful review of Mullendore indicates that it in fact fails to teach or even suggest the claimed invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Figure 4 and paragraph [0029] of Mullendore teaches that the Switches do modify the OX\_ID and RX\_ID header. Specifically, the Examiner states:

"As shown in FIG. 4, for example, when Fast Write is enabled, the initiator-side switch 150 would receive a write command from initiator 135 destined for target 145 and would normally immediately respond to the initiator with an RTT message requesting the write data for the entire write command " (see paragraph 0061). The switch responding to the initiator will also create (modified) a response identifier. In this case, the switch's identification is the receiver exchange identifier, also known as 'responder identifier' in the art. A great example of a switch in a SAN using Fibre Channel header to *modifying* a Receive Exchange Identifier (responder Identifier) is clearly shown by Walter et al. (US pub. 2004/0088574). (emphasis added in bold and italic)

It is not entirely clear what the Examiner is attempting to argue in the above paragraph. The undersigned's interpretation, however, is that the initiator side switch 150 generates a "*modified*" Receive Exchange Identifier or responder Identifier when the Fast Write feature is enabled and a write command is received. If the Applicants interpretation is correct, then the Mullendore

reference fails to teach the present invention. If the Applicants interpretation is incorrect, than better explanation is requested.

The claimed invention covers a Switch configured to modify either the OX\_ID or RX\_ID header of a trapped write command frame. In contrast the Mellendore reference (and apparently the Walter reference as well), teaches that Receive Exchange Identifier frames or response Identifiers are modified. Since a write command frame is not the same and is different from a Receive Exchange Identifier (or response Identifier), then the cited reference does not anticipate the present invention.

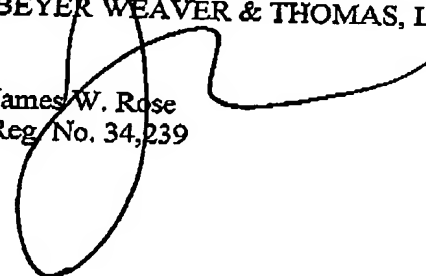
Furthermore, for the record, the Examiner's above description of the Fast Write operation of Mullendore as illustrated in Figure 4 of the reference is completely different than what is actually described. More specifically, paragraph [0061] describes the Fast Write of Mullendore in detail. When the Fast Write is enabled, the Switch 150 does not issue a Ready-to-Transfer (RTT) message unless the Switch has buffer resources available to buffer the data of the entire write operation or some threshold amount (e.g., 256KB). If the original write command transfers less than the threshold amount, or the buffer resources are available for all the data, then the RTT message is immediately issued. If the original write command transfers more than the available buffer space, then the RTT message is generated only when the buffer space becomes available. If the write command transfers more data than the threshold, then the multiple threshold sized RTT messages are generated as buffer space becomes available.

Again, there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a Switch, which modifies either the OX\_ID or RX\_ID header of a trapped write command frame in the Mellendore reference.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

James W. Rose  
Reg. No. 34,239



P.O. Box 70250  
Oakland, CA 94612-0250  
650-961-8300